U.S. INVESTIGATES DENVER BURGLARY

F.B.I. Informer Reportedly Stole Data From Socialist Workers Party Office

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WASHINGTON, July 27—The Justice Department's civil rights division has begun an investigation into a July 7 burglary of the Socialist Workers Party's offices in Denver that was reportedly carried out by an informer assigned to spy on the party by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The decision to send investigators to Denver was reportedly reached here last night after Justice Department lawyers learned of allegations by the informer, Timothy Redfern, that an F.B.I. agent in Denver had taken possession of four cartons of documents stolen from the party before the local authorities were notified of the burglary.

J. Stanley Pottinger, who heads the civil rights division, said that the inquiry into Mr. Redfern's allegations would be conducted from Washington as part of a criminal investigation into other burglaries allegedly carried out by F.B.I. agents in recent years in the New York City area.

The Manhattan headquarters of the Socialist Workers Party was the target of more than 90 such burglaries between 1960 and 1966, according to F.B.I. documents made public last March. But it had not been known that any with F.B.I. connections had been directed against the party since then.

F.B.I. Won't Comment

Justice Department sources confirmed today that Mr. Redfern had said that he carried out the Denver burglary, and that he had been assigned by the Denver F.B.I. office to penetrate the Young Socialist Alliance, the youth arm of the Socialist Worker's Party.

An F.B.I. spokesman had no comment, nor did Mr. Redfern.

But Arthur Dill, chief of the Denver police department, said in a telephone interview that his officers were first notified of Mr. Redfern's involvement in the theft and the whereabouts of the stolen documents by Theodore Rosack, the head of the Denver F.B.I. office, on July 15, eight days after they were taken.

Dale Tooley, the district Attorney in Denver, said that he intended to conduct a "thorough investigation" into all aspects of the case, including the possible complicity of F.B.I. agents. He declined to elaborate, but one source familiar with the matter said that Mr. Redfern, who has not yet been charged, was contending that he had acted on the Government's behalf.

Informer Expelled

According to Ruth Getts, a Young Socialist Alliance organizer in Denver, Mr. Redfern, who was expelled from the organization last n ght, told her that he had carried out the burglary on his own initiative because he was "under pressure to produce" information to retain his $400 monthly informer's fee from the f.b.i.

Miss Getts quoted Mr. Redfern as saying that after stealing the documents, he telephoned John Allman, an F.B.I. agent in Denver, and told him that he had taken them.

Mr. Allman, according to Miss Getts's account of Mr. Redfern's remarks, allegedly told the informer to leave the documents in an undescribed place, from which the F.B.I. agent recovered them.

Justice Department sources said today, however, that Mr. Allman had told associates that he had immediately taken steps to notify the Denver police after Mr. Redfern acknowledged committing the burglary.

Mr. Tooley's office was understood to have tested the documents for fingerprints to determine whether Mr. Allman had ever handled them, but the results of those tests could not be learned.